Alberta
HUMAN RESOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT

the people & workplace department

## ALBERTA PROFILE:

# OLDER WORKERS IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Data Development and Evaluation

Revised: June 2005

## Highlights

For the purpose of this profile, older workers are defined as those people who are aged 45 years and over.

### 1. Alberta Older Workers Labour Force Statistics

- Older workers accounted for more than two thirds of the increase in Alberta's working age population
- Alberta older workers growth rate was more than 15% higher than the national older workers growth rate
- Over the last decade the proportion of older workers in the Alberta labour force has increased

### 2. Alberta Older Workers Education Levels

- Around 40% of Alberta's labour force with a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree were older workers
- Older workers in Alberta with a post-secondary certificate or diploma have doubled in the past decade
- Education levels for older workers increased at a greater rate than the province
- Older workers with higher post-secondary education experienced lower unemployment rates

### 3. Alberta Older Workers Employment by Industry

- The Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas industry paid Alberta older workers the highest wage
- More than half of Alberta female older workers were employed in four industries
- Over half of those Albertans employed in the Agriculture industry were older workers

### 4. Alberta Older Workers Employment by Occupation

- Almost 40% of Alberta older workers were employed in Sales and Services and Business, Finance and Administration occupations
- Nearly three quarters of Alberta older workers employed in Business, Finance and Administration were female
- Over 90% of Alberta older workers employed in Trades, Transportation and Equipment Operators were male

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### 5. Alberta Older Workers Wage & Salary

- Alberta older worker average hourly wage rate was higher than the national older worker average
- The higher the weekly wage rate the lower the number of Alberta female older workers employed
- Alberta's male older workers had a higher average hourly wage rate than female older working employees in all industries
- Alberta's male older workers had a higher average hourly wage rate than female older working employees in all occupations

### 6. Alberta Older Workers Participation Rate

- Alberta older workers had the highest older workers participation rate in the nation
- Calgary had the highest older worker participation rate of all major Canadian cities
- Older worker participation rate at a 10-year high

### 7. Alberta Older Workers Employment

- Alberta had the highest older worker employment rate in the nation
- Calgary had the highest older worker employment rate among Canadian major cities
- Older worker employment rate increased more than the Alberta rate over the past decade
- Alberta female older workers experienced their highest ever employment rate
- Alberta male older workers were more likely to work full-time that their female counterparts

### 8. Alberta Older Workers Unemployment

- Alberta's older workers had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada
- Calgary was in the top three of major Canadian cities for older worker unemployment rates
- Alberta older workers unemployment rate was lower than the provincial rate
- Older workers experienced longer lengths of unemployment than overall Albertans
- Over the last decade, the older worker unemployment duration has decreased
- The unemployment rate among older workers was slightly higher for women

# 1. Alberta Older Workers Labour Force Statistics

**Older workers accounted for more than two thirds of the increase in Alberta's working age population**

For the purpose of this profile, older workers are defined as those people who are aged 45 years and over. The Working Age Population (WAP) of Alberta in 1994 was just over 2 million and by 2004 had increased to 2.5 million. WAP is defined as those persons 15 years of age and over except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.[1] In the last 10 years, older workers in the WAP of Canada increased by 2.8 million. More than ten percent (11.9%) of the increase in Canada's older workers WAP occurred in Alberta. Within the province, more than two thirds (69.4%) of Alberta's growth occurred in older workers. Table 1 presents the WAP change for Canada, Canada's older workers, Alberta and Alberta's older workers.

**Table 1**

**Working Age Population**

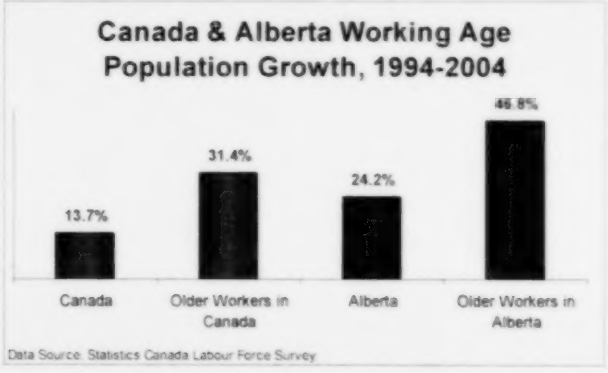
| | 1994 | 2004 | Growth |
|---|---|---|---|
| Canada | 22,367,800 | 25,432,700 | 3,064,900 |
| Older Workers in Canada | 9,061,400 | 11,903,300 | 2,841,900 |
| **Alberta** | 2,016,300 | 2,505,000 | 488,700 |
| **Older Workers in Alberta** | 723,800 | 1,062,900 | 339,100 |

Data Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

**Alberta older workers growth rate was more than fifteen percent higher than the national older workers growth rate**

Chart 1 demonstrates the percentage change in the WAP. The older workers growth rate in Alberta was 15.4 percentage points higher than the national older workers growth rate. In the last 10 years, older workers WAP in Alberta increased by 46.8%, while older workers in Canada increased by 31.4%.

**Chart 1**




[1] Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE

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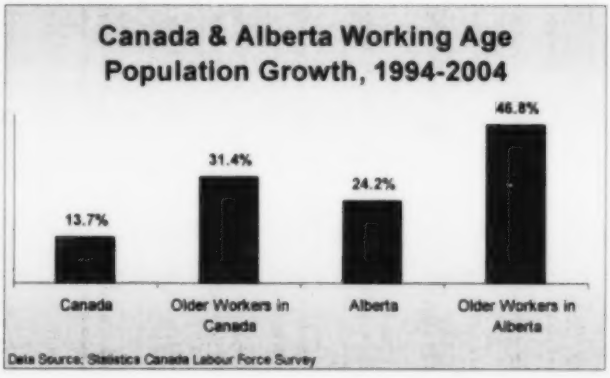


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## 1. Alberta Older Workers Labour Force Statistics

As of 2004, older workers WAP in Edmonton and Calgary were 333,300 and 346,500 respectively. These two cities combine for close to two-thirds (64.0%) of Alberta's total older workers WAP.

**Over the last decade the proportion of older workers in the Alberta labour force has increased**

The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.[2] Table 2 displays older workers labour force statistics. In 2004, Alberta's older workers comprised 35.3% of the provincial labour force, which was 8.8 percentage points higher than the 1994 figure.

Table 2 notes that older workers had decreased their unemployment rate by over half, from 7.5% in 1994 to 3.3% in 2004. Alberta older workers employment rate increased 10.2 percentage points, from 1994 to 2004, displaying that older workers increased in the workforce. In 1994, older workers had a participation rate of 53.1%. In 2004, this increased to 61.3%.

**Table 2**

**Alberta Older Workers Labour Force Statistics**

| | Older Workers | | Total Alberta WAP | | Older Workers as % of Total Alberta WAP | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1994 | 2004 | 1994 | 2004 | 1994 | 2004 |
| Labour Force | 384,200 | 651,100 | 1,451,300 | 1,843,400 | 26.5% | 35.3% |
| Employed | 355,600 | 630,000 | 1,324,000 | 1,757,900 | 26.9% | 35.8% |
| Unemployed | 28,700 | 21,200 | 127,300 | 85,500 | 22.5% | 24.8% |
| Participation Rate | 53.1% | 61.3% | 72.0% | 73.6% | | |
| Employment Rate | 49.1% | 59.3% | 65.7% | 70.2% | | |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.5% | 3.3% | 8.8% | 4.6% | | |

Data Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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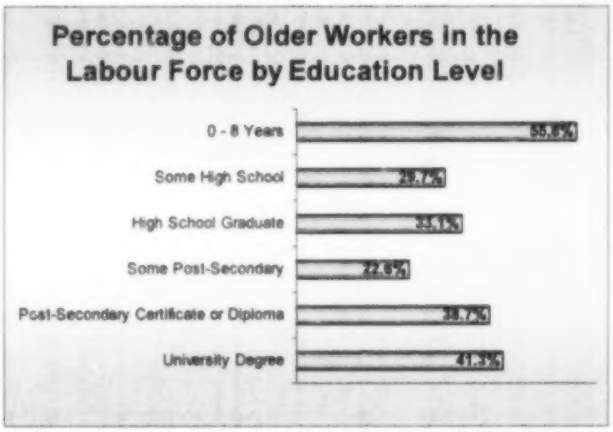
[2] Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE

## 2. Alberta Older Workers Education Levels

**Around forty percent of Alberta's labour force with a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree were older workers**

Chart 2 displays the percentage of Alberta older workers in each education level. In 2004, over half (55.8%) of those Albertan's with a 0-8 years education level were older workers. However, there was a steady increase in older workers as the level of education increased. For example, older workers represented 33.1% and 41.3% of Albertans with a high school diploma and university degree, respectively.

**Chart 2**




**Older workers in Alberta with a post-secondary certificate or diploma have doubled in the past decade**

Table 3 shows the change in the education level of Alberta and Alberta's older workers. Older workers in the labour force with an education level of 0-8 years decreased by 8,000 between 1994 and 2004. Conversely, older workers in Alberta with a post-secondary certificate or diploma have doubled since 1994 and those with a university degree have nearly doubled. Alberta also had a decline in the 0-8 years education level, as it decreased by 12,700 between 1994 and 2004. Those Albertans with an education level of Post-secondary certificate or diploma increased by 180,300 over the last 10 years. Nearly two thirds of the increase (65.8%) in Albertans with a Post-secondary certificate or diploma came from older workers.

## 2. Alberta Older Workers Education Levels

**Table 3**

**Alberta Older Worker Labour Force by Education Level**

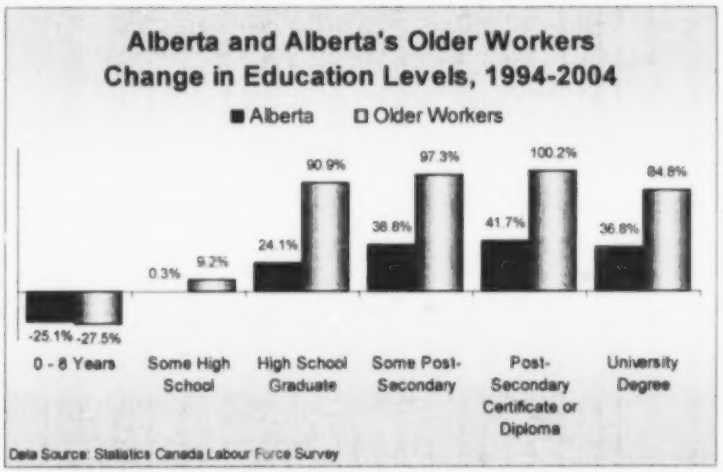
| | Alberta | | | Older Workers | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1994 | 2004 | Change | 1994 | 2004 | Change |
| 0 - 8 Years | 50,500 | 37,800 | -12,700 | 29,100 | 21,100 | -8,000 |
| **Some High School** | 251,100 | 251,900 | 800 | 68,500 | 74,800 | 6,300 |
| High School Graduate | 340,000 | 422,100 | 82,100 | 73,300 | 139,900 | 66,600 |
| **Some Post-Secondary** | 138,400 | 192,100 | 53,700 | 22,000 | 43,400 | 21,400 |
| Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma | 432,800 | 613,100 | 180,300 | 118,400 | 237,000 | 118,600 |
| **University Degree** | 238,600 | 326,400 | 87,800 | 73,000 | 134,900 | 61,900 |

Data Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

### Education levels for older workers increased at a greater rate than the province

Chart 3 demonstrates Alberta and Alberta's older workers percentage change in the labour force between 1994 and 2004. In almost all levels of education, the change in Alberta older workers education levels was greater than provincial levels. The increase in older workers with a high school diploma was nearly four times (3.8) greater than the provincial increase for the same education level.

**Chart 3**




### Older workers with higher post-secondary education experienced lower unemployment rates

Table 4 indicates the unemployment rate by level of education for Alberta and Alberta's older workers. The higher the education level, the lower the unemployment rate, as those with a post-secondary certificate or diploma or university degree experienced lower unemployment rates than those with some post-secondary education for older workers in Alberta. The unemployment rate for older workers holding a post-secondary certificate or diploma in 1994 was 8.0% and by 2004 had dropped to 3.2%.

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**Around forty percent of Alberta's labour force with a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree were older workers**

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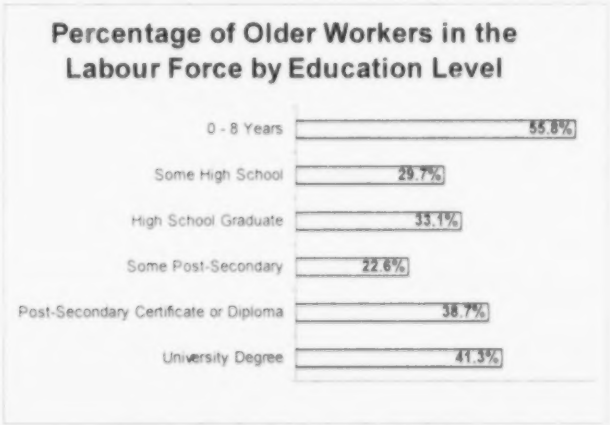


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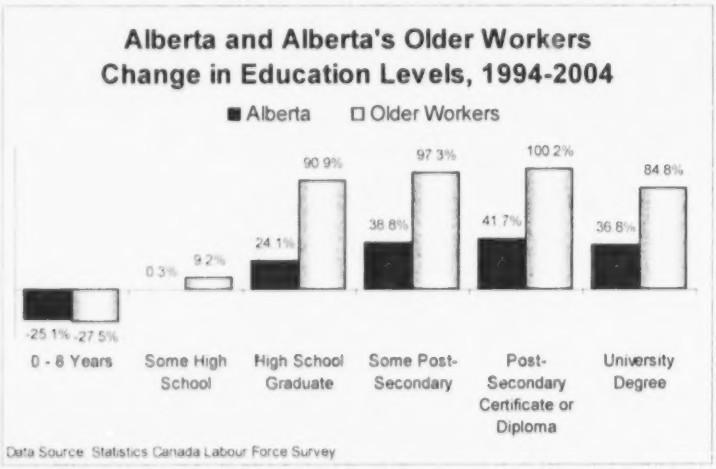


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## 2. Alberta Older Workers Education Levels

**Table 4**

**Unemployment Rate by Education Level**

| | 1994 | | 2004 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Alberta | Older Workers | Alberta | Older Workers |
| **0 - 8 Years** | 12.1% | 9.6% | 6.3% | n/a* |
| **Some High School** | 13.3% | 7.0% | 8.6% | 4.0% |
| **High School Graduate** | 7.9% | 7.4% | 4.4% | 2.9% |
| **Some Post-Secondary** | 9.3% | 7.3% | 4.8% | 3.9% |
| **Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma** | 8.0% | 8.0% | 3.5% | 3.2% |
| **University Degree** | 5.6% | 6.2% | 3.6% | 3.0% |

Data Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

*Statistics Canada suppresses figure that are less than 1,500

It is expected that by 2005, workers entering the 55-64 year age group will have higher levels of education and that a higher percentage will be women.[3]

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[3] *Working Group on Older Workers*, Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM)

## 3. Alberta Older Workers Employment by Industry

Industry refers to the general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).[4]

Chart 4 displays Alberta older workers employed by average hourly wage rate and industry. In 2004, almost three quarters (71.2%) of older workers in Alberta were employed in Services-Producing industries. Goods-Producing industries had just over a quarter (28.8%) of Alberta's employed older workers. In 2004, the average hourly wage for Alberta's older workers in all industries (aggregated to the two-digit National Occupational Classification level) was $22.15.

The percent of Alberta's older workers in the top four employed industries and hourly rates paid older workers by those industries in 2004 are as follows: 10.5% in Health Care and Social Assistance, with a $21.84 older workers average hourly wage rate; 9.0% in Construction, with a $24.16 older workers average hourly wage rate; 8.7% in Retail Trade, with a $15.26 older workers average hourly wage rate; and 7.9% in Educational Services, with a $25.76 older workers average hourly wage rate.

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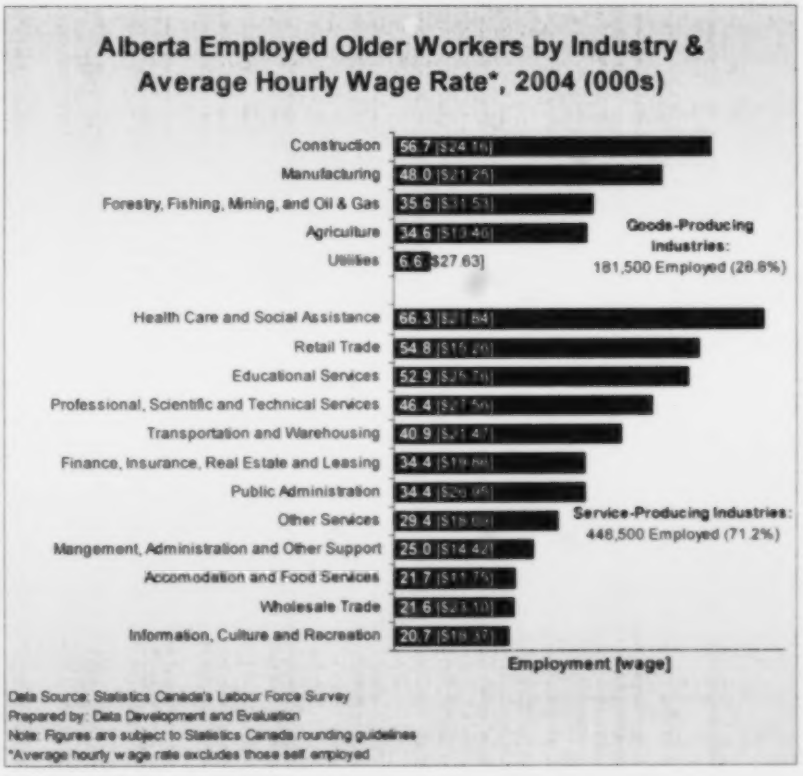


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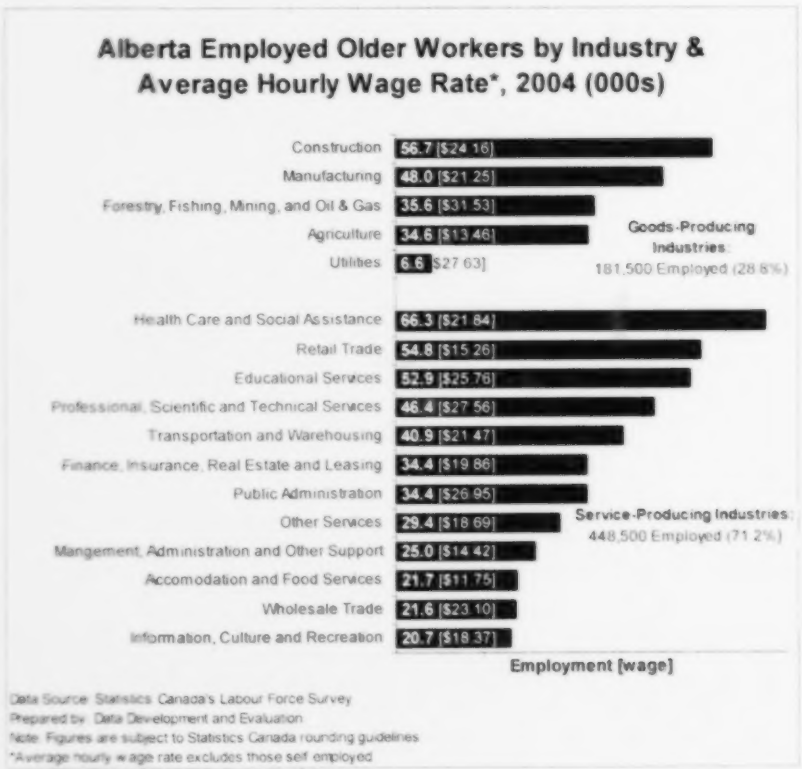


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## 3. Alberta Older Workers Employment by Industry

**Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas industry paid Alberta older workers the highest wage**

The Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas industry had the highest wage for Alberta older workers, at $31.53. This was nearly ten dollars ($9.38) higher than the average hourly industry wages for Alberta's older workers.

**More than half of Alberta's female older workers were employed in four industries**

More than half (50.6%) of Alberta female older workers were employed in the following four industries: Health Care and Social Assistance, 20.1%; Educational Services, 12.9%; Retail Trade, 10.8%; and Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing, 6.8%.

More than forty percent (41.5%) of Alberta male older workers were employed in the following four industries: Construction, 14.1%; Manufacturing, 10.1%; Transportation and Warehousing 9.1%; and Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas, 8.2%. Table 5 displays Alberta's older workers employment by industry and gender.

**Table 5**

**Alberta Older Workers by Industry and Gender, 2004**

| | Older Workers | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **630,000** | **347,000** | **283,000** |
| **Goods-Producing Industries** | **181,500** | **141,400** | **40,100** |
| Agriculture | 34,600 | 23,600 | 11,000 |
| Construction | 56,700 | 49,000 | 7,700 |
| Forestry, Fishing, Mining, and Oil & Gas | 35,600 | 28,500 | 7,100 |
| Manufacturing | 48,000 | 34,900 | 13,100 |
| Utilities | 6,600 | 5,400 | 1,200 |
| **Service-Producing Industries** | **448,500** | **205,900** | **242,900** |
| Accomodation and Food Services | 21,700 | 8,000 | 13,700 |
| Educational Services | 52,900 | 16,500 | 36,400 |
| Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing | 34,400 | 15,100 | 19,300 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 66,300 | 9,600 | 56,800 |
| Information, Culture and Recreation | 20,700 | 8,500 | 12,300 |
| Mangement, Administration and Other Support | 25,000 | 11,700 | 13,400 |
| Other Services | 29,400 | 16,400 | 13,000 |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 46,400 | 28,100 | 18,300 |
| Public Administration | 34,400 | 19,100 | 15,300 |
| Retail Trade | 54,800 | 24,200 | 30,600 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 40,900 | 31,600 | 9,300 |
| Wholesale Trade | 21,600 | 17,100 | 4,600 |

Data Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

Prepared by: Data Development and Evaluation

Note: Figures are subject to Statistics Canada rounding guidelines

## 3. Alberta Older Workers Employment by Industry

**Over half of those Albertans employed in the Agriculture industry were older workers**

Chart 5 displays Alberta older workers as a percentage of Alberta's total employment for each industry. In 2004, over half (52.6%) of Albertans who were employed in the agriculture industry were older workers. The Accommodation and Food Services industry had the lowest older worker representation at 17.5% in 2004.

**Chart 5**

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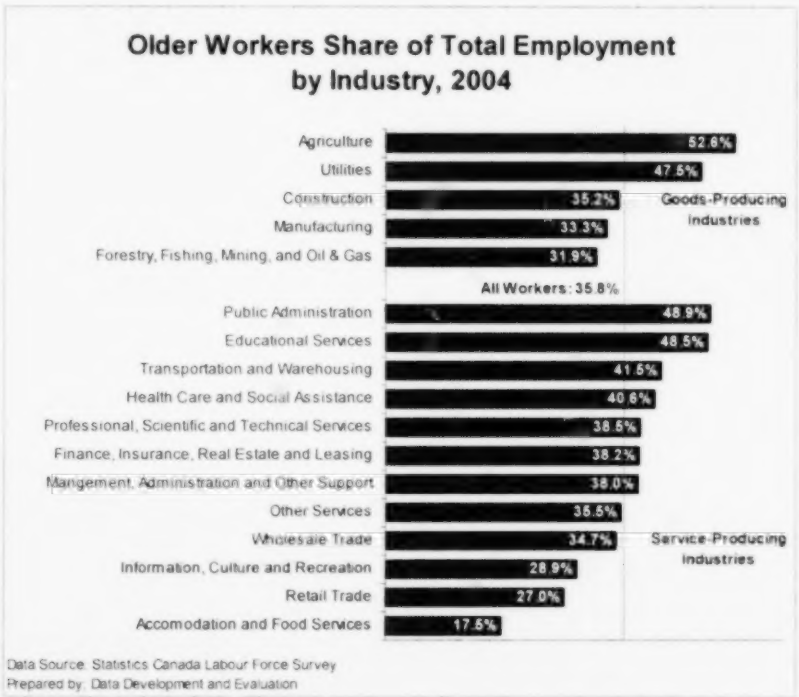


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## 4. Alberta Older Workers Employment by Occupation

Occupation refers to the kind of work persons 15 years of age and over were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the date relates to the previous job, if the job was held in the past year.[5]

**Almost forty percent of Alberta older workers were employed in Sales and Services and Business Finance and Administration occupations**

Chart 6 displays Alberta older workers by average hourly wage rate and industry. In 2004 almost forty percent (37.0%) of Alberta's older workers were employed in Sales and Services and Business, Finance and Administration occupations. The top three occupations to employ older workers were: Sales and Services at 18.5% with an average hourly wage of $14.33; Business, Finance and Administration at 18.5% with an average hourly wage of $19.19; and Trades, Transportation and Equipment Operators at 17.5% with an average hourly wage of $21.83.

**Chart 6**

**Nearly three quarters of Alberta older workers employed in Business, Finance and Administration occupations were female**

Table 6 displays Alberta older workers employment by occupation and gender in 2004. Over three quarters (76.9%) of Alberta's female older workers were employed in the following occupations: Business, Finance and Administration, 30.6%; Sales and

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**Chart 6**

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## 4. Alberta Older Workers Employment by Occupation

Services, 24.2%; Health, 11.1%; and Social Science, Education, Government and Religion, 11.0%. Of those older workers employed in Business, Finance and Administration, almost three quarters (74.4%) were females.

**Over ninety percent of Alberta older workers employed in Trades, Transportation, and Equipment Operators were male**

Over two-thirds (67.7%) of Alberta's male older workers were employed in the following four occupations: Trades, Transportation and Equipment Operators, 29.5%; Sales and Services, 13.9%; Management, 13.7%; and Unique to Primary Industry, 10.6%. Of those older workers employed in Trades, Transportation and Equipment Operators, over ninety percent (93.1%) were males.

**Table 6**

**Alberta Older Workers by Occupation and Gender, 2004**

| | Older Workers | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **630,000** | **347,000** | **283,000** |
| Art, Culture, Recreation & Sport | 13,800 | 5,000 | 8,800 |
| Unique to Processing, Manufacturing & Utilities | 22,700 | 16,900 | 5,800 |
| Health | 38,700 | 7,400 | 31,300 |
| Natural & Applied Sciences | 42,500 | 35,100 | 7,400 |
| Unique to Primary Industry | 47,900 | 36,800 | 11,100 |
| Social Science, Education, Government & Religion | 49,000 | 17,900 | 31,100 |
| Management | 72,400 | 47,500 | 24,900 |
| Trades, Tranportation & Equipment Operators | 110,000 | 102,400 | 7,500 |
| Business, Finance & Administration | 116,400 | 29,800 | 86,600 |
| Sales & Service | 116,600 | 48,200 | 68,400 |

Data Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

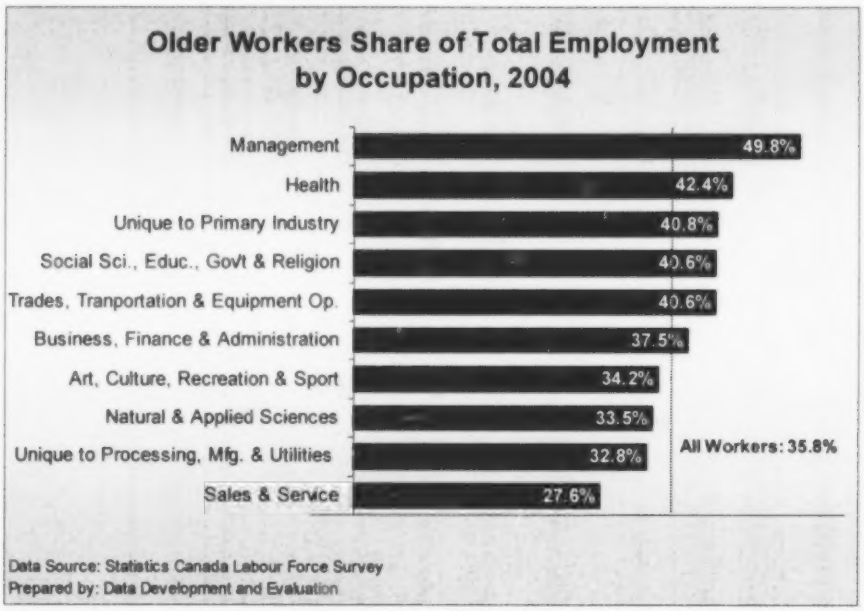
Prepared by: Data Development and Evaluation

Note: Figures are subject to Statistics Canada rounding guidelines

Chart 7 shows employment by occupation for Alberta's older workers as a percentage of Alberta's total employment by occupation. In 2004, 49.8% of those Albertans in Management occupations were older workers, the highest of all occupations. Sales and Services occupations had the lowest older worker representation at 27.6%.

## 4. Alberta Older Workers Employment by Occupation

**Chart 7**

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## 5. Alberta Older Workers Wage & Salary

**Alberta older workers average hourly wage rate was higher than the national older worker average**

Figure 1 displays hourly wage rate including tips, commissions and bonuses before taxes and other deductions.[6] In 2001, older workers in Alberta held a slightly lower average hourly wage rate than older workers in Canada. In 2001, the provincial rate for older workers was $19.61 and increased to $22.15 in 2004 surpassing the national average hourly wage rate of $21.24. In 2004, the national older workers average hourly wage rate was close to a dollar ($0.91) lower than the older worker average hourly wage rate in Alberta.

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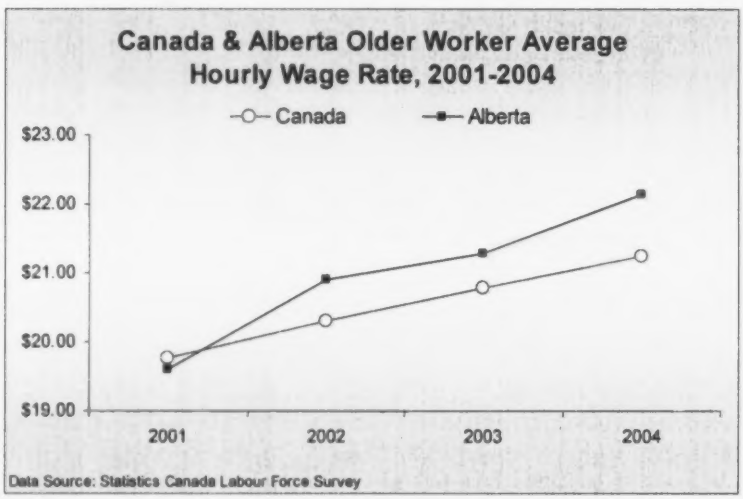


In 2004, Alberta's male and female older worker average hourly wage rates were $25.28 and $18.92, respectively.

[6] Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (2002 Historical)

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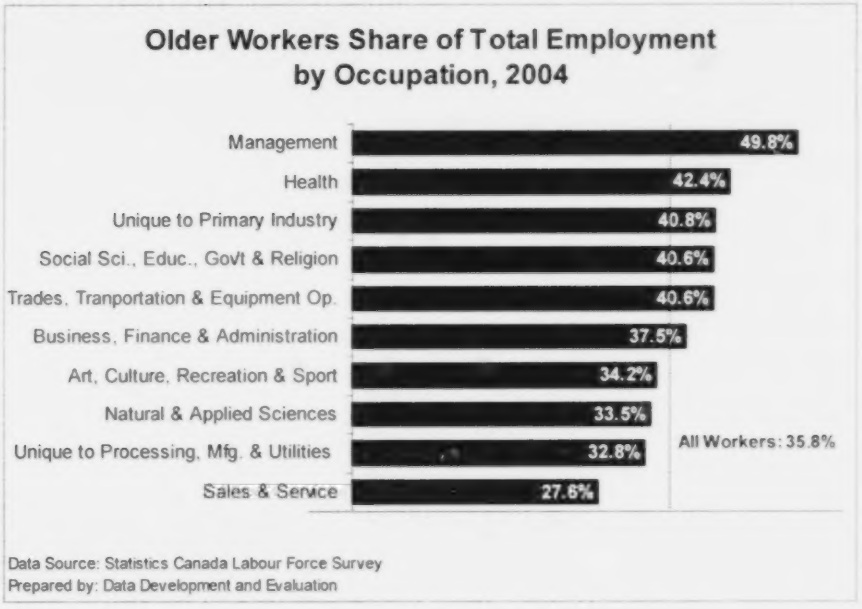


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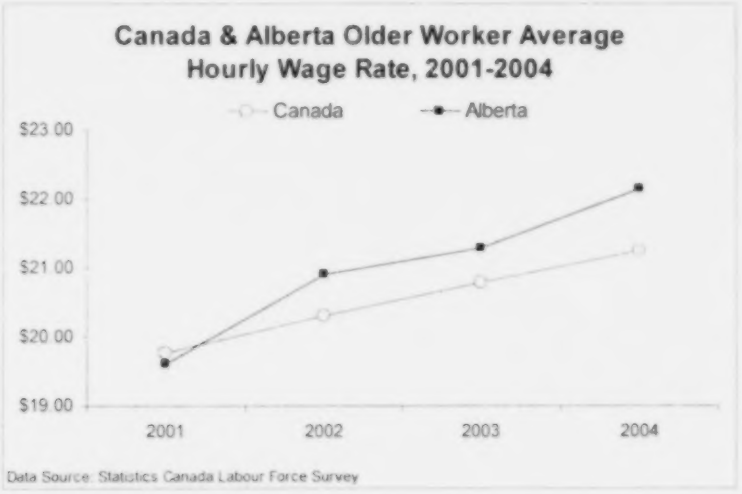


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## 5. Alberta Older Workers Wage & Salary

**The higher the weekly wage rate the lower the number of Alberta female older workers employed**

More female older workers had weekly wages of $599 or less, while more male older workers had weekly wages more than $600 per week. Just over half (52.5%) of Alberta's female older workers had a weekly wage rate of less than $599 a week, whereas 56.5% of Alberta's male older workers earned $900 or more a week. Thus, the higher the weekly wage rate, the lower the number of female older workers employed in Alberta. Figure 2 provides Alberta's older workers weekly wage distribution by gender in 2004.

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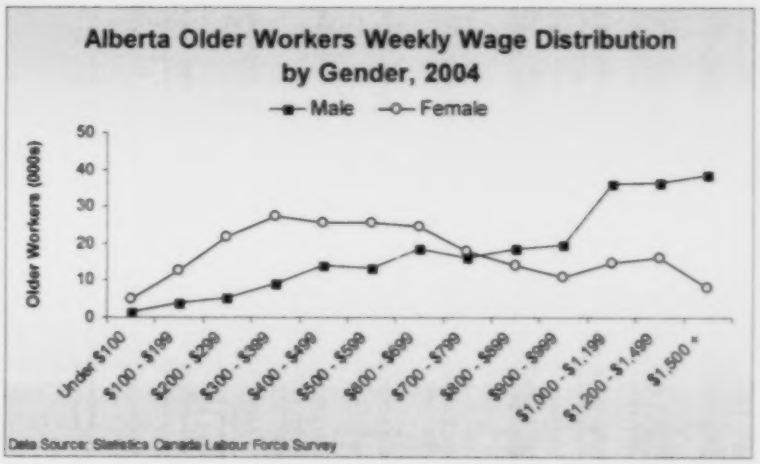

## 5. Alberta Older Workers Wage & Salary

**Alberta's male older workers had a higher average hourly wage rate than female older working employees in all industries**

Chart 8 demonstrates Alberta older worker average hourly wage rate paid by industry and gender. In Alberta, male older workers were paid higher wages than female older workers in all industries. The Management, Administration and Other Support industry experienced the closest average hourly wage rate, with a difference of $1.17. The largest difference occurred in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services industry ($14.59).

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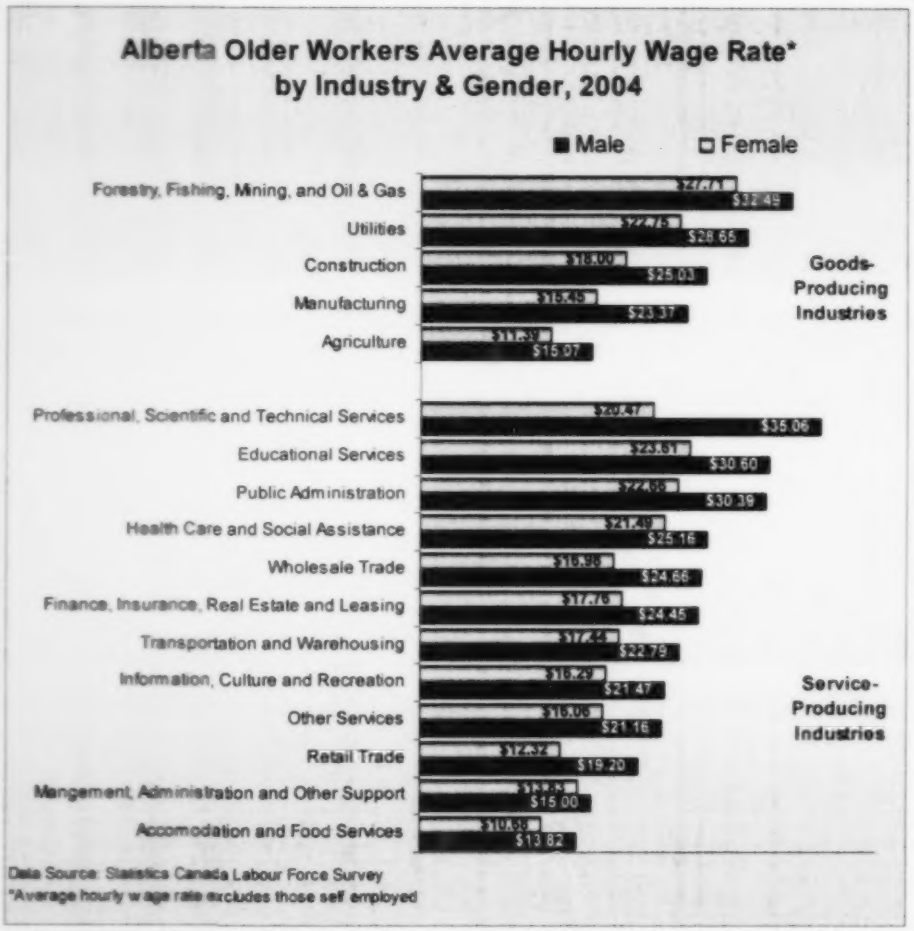

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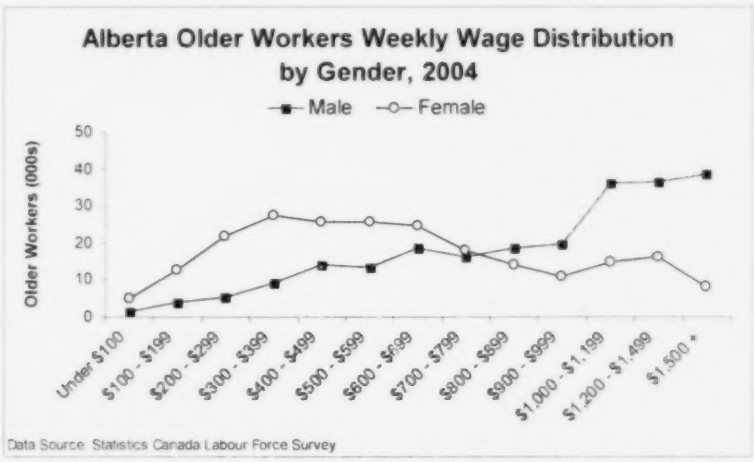

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Chart 9 shows Alberta older worker average hourly wage rate paid by occupation and gender. Male older workers in Alberta were paid higher than female older workers in all occupations. The largest difference was in the Unique to Primary Industry occupation ($12.57). The smallest difference occurred for Art, Culture, Recreation, and Sport occupations ($3.13).

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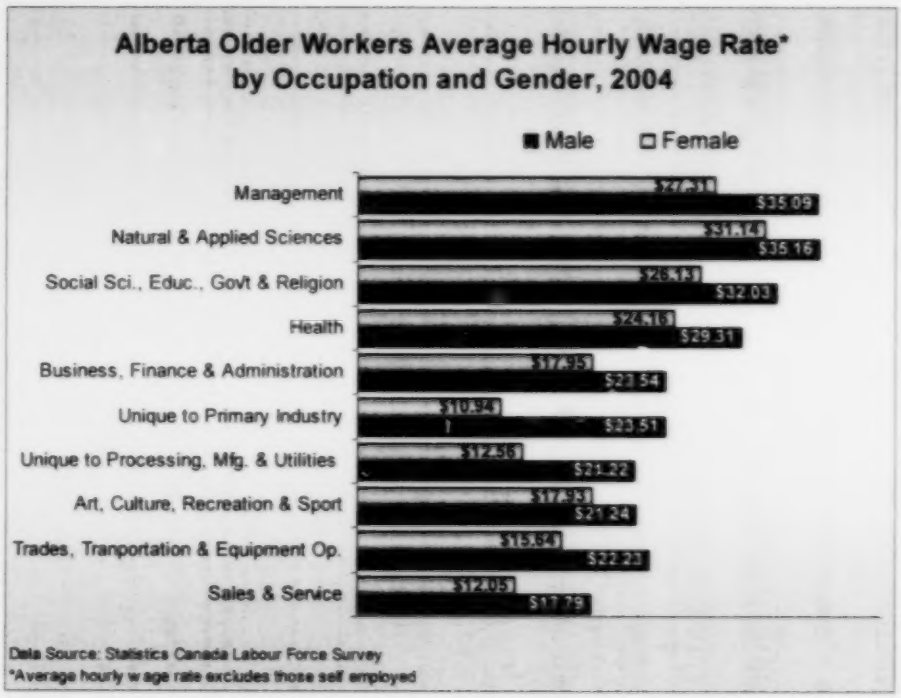


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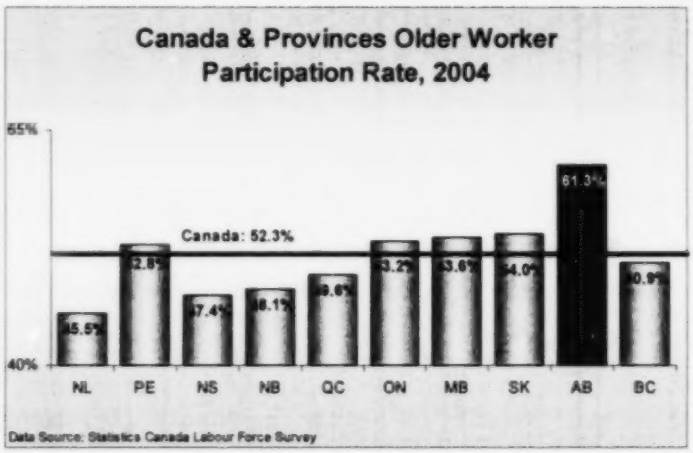
## 6. Alberta Older Workers Participation Rate

**Alberta older workers had the highest older workers participation rate in the nation**

The participation rate represents the total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.[7] In 2004, Alberta had the highest participation rate in the country at 73.6%.

As shown in Chart 10, Alberta's older workers had the highest participation rate in Canada, at 61.3%. This was 9.0 percentage points higher than the national average.

**Chart 10**




**Calgary had the highest older worker participation rate of all major Canadian cities**

In 2004, for the seventh consecutive year, Calgary had the highest older workers participation rate of all Canadian major cities, at 63.6%. This was 11.2 percentage points higher than the average for major Canadian cities. Edmonton was also above the national average, at 59.6%.

**Older worker participation rate at a 10-year high**

Alberta's older workers held a consistent participation rate over the past decade, increasing to a 10-year high in 2004, at 61.3%. Throughout this 10-year period, older workers in Alberta had a lower participation rate than the provincial average. Between 1994 and 2004, older workers participation rate increased, closing the gap between Alberta's older workers and the Alberta WAP. Figure 3 shows detailed information.

[7] Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE

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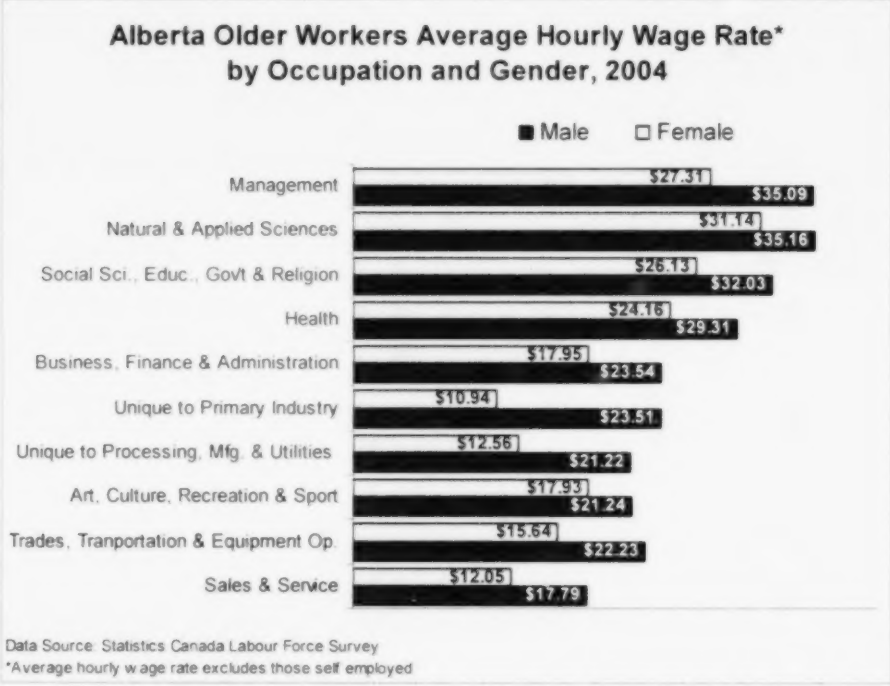


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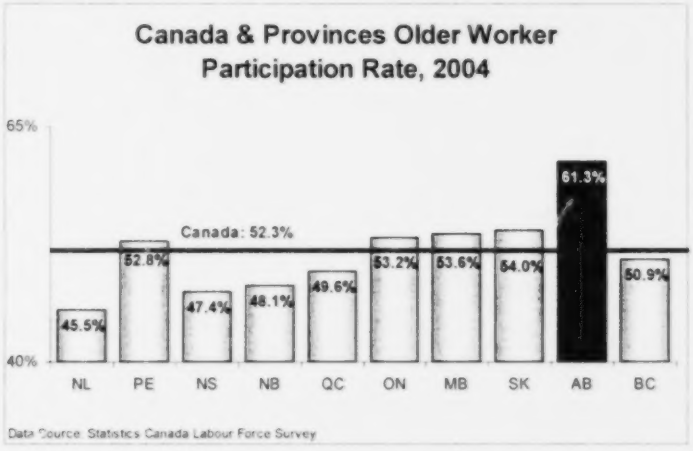


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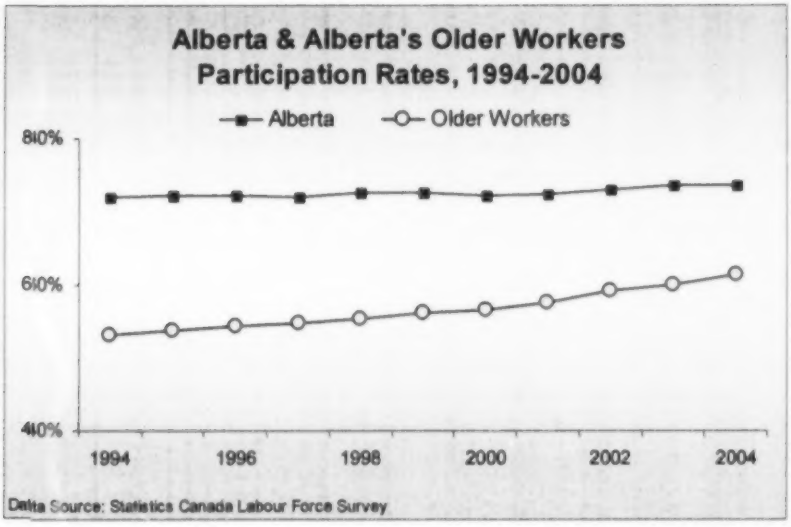


Chart 11 demonstrates that the Alberta participation rate varied by gender. In 2004, older workers had a lower participation rate than the province. The female participation rate in Alberta was 12.4 percentage points less than the male provincial participation rate.

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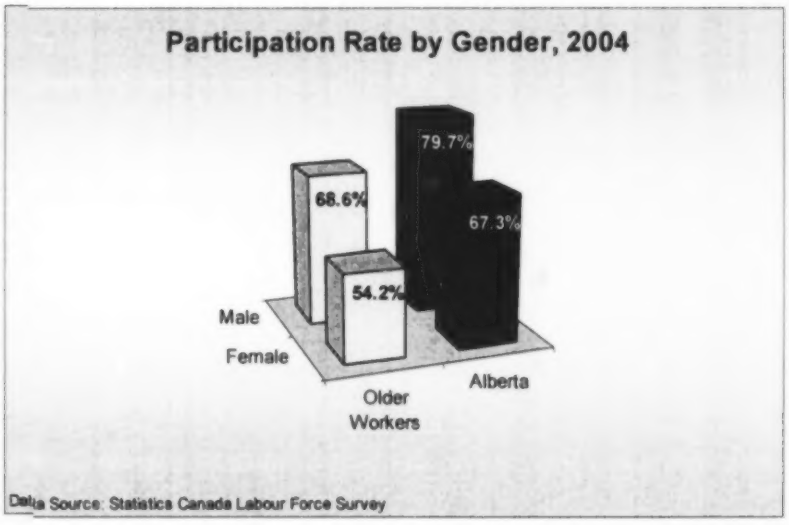


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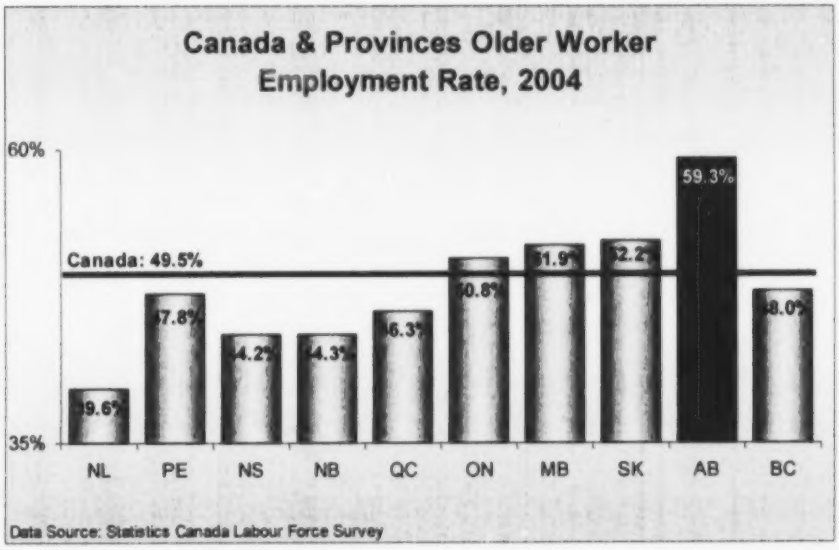
## 7. Alberta Older Workers Employment

**Alberta had the highest older worker employment rate in the nation**

The employment rate represents the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of WAP.[8] In 2004, Alberta had the highest employment rate in the country at 70.2%.

Older workers in Alberta had the highest employment rate (59.3%) of older workers in all provinces, as noted in Chart 12. This was 9.8 percentage points higher than the national average for older workers.

**Chart 12**




**Calgary had the highest older worker employment rate among Canadian major cities**

In 2004, Calgary had the highest older workers employment rate of all Canadian major cities, at 61.5%, which was 11.5 percentage points higher than the national average. Edmonton was second with an employment rate of 57.4%.

**Older worker employment rate increased more than the Alberta rate over the past decade**

Figure 4 indicates that Alberta held a fairly consistent employment rate between 1994 and 2004. Throughout the decade Alberta older workers employment rate has been lower than the provincial average. Between 1998 and 2004, the employment rate for Alberta's older workers increased by three and a half times more than the provincial rate.

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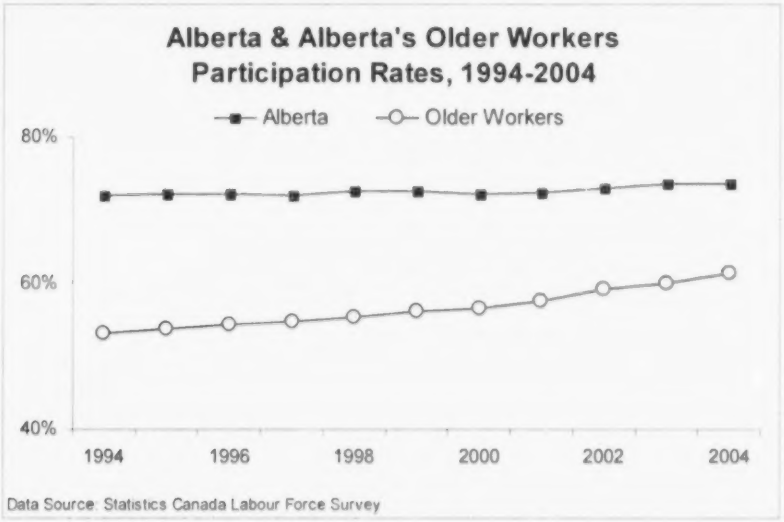


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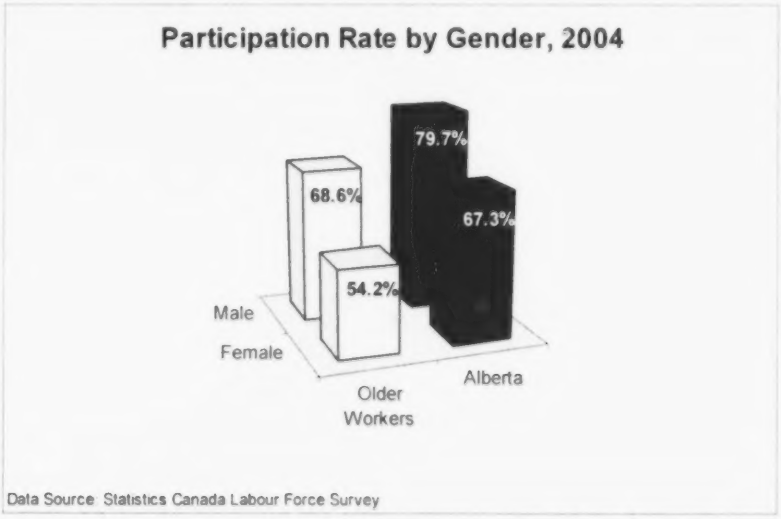


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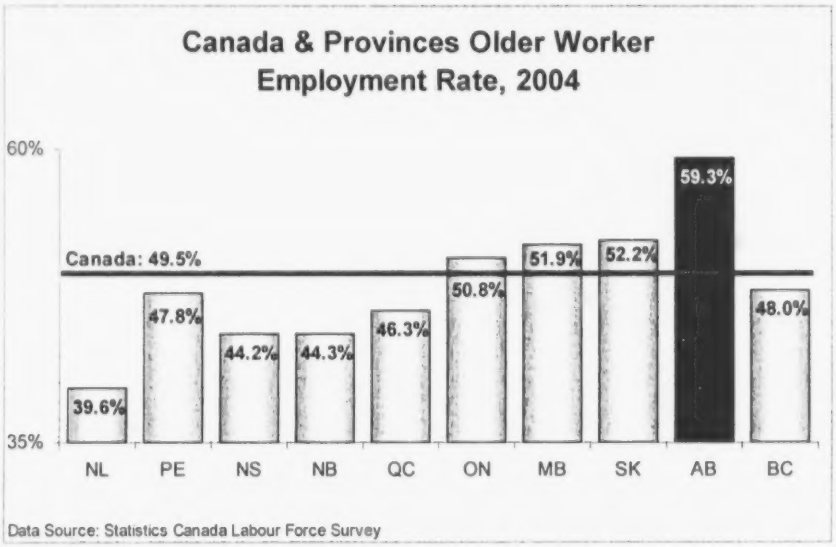


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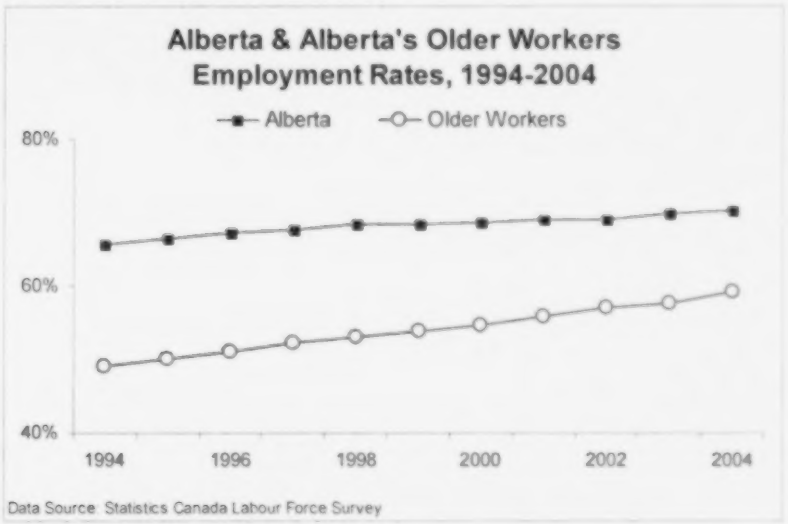
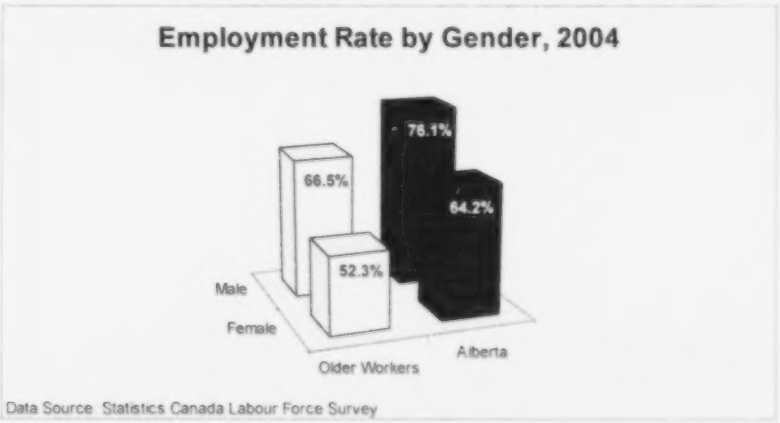



**Alberta female older workers experienced their highest ever employment rate**

Chart 13 displays employment rate by gender in Alberta. Female employment rates were lower for Alberta and Alberta's older workers. Alberta's female older workers experienced their highest employment rate at 52.3%. The male employment rate for the province was higher than both the male and female older worker rates. Alberta older workers experienced a 14.2 percentage point difference in employment rates between genders.

**Chart 13**




Research has shown that 80.0% of older workers believe they will work at least part-time during their "retirement" years. Over 33.0% want to work mainly for the interest and enjoyment, while about 25.0% say they will need the money.[9]

[9] Cross Ministry Seniors Policy Initiative, 2001

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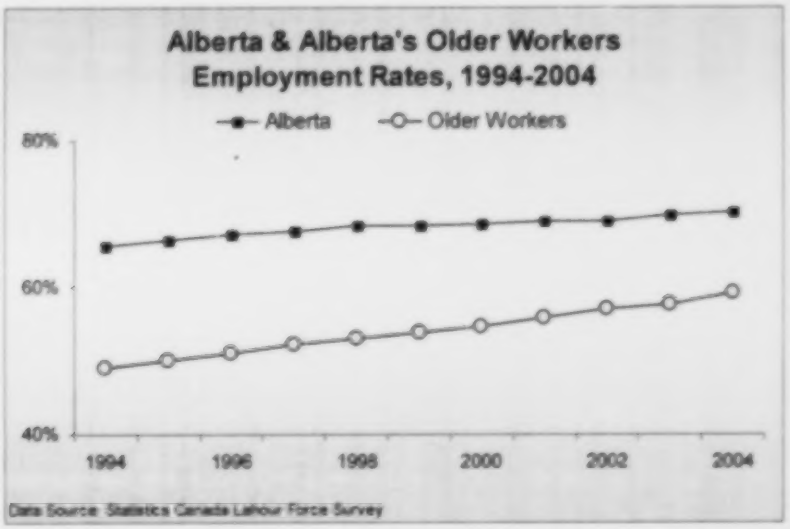


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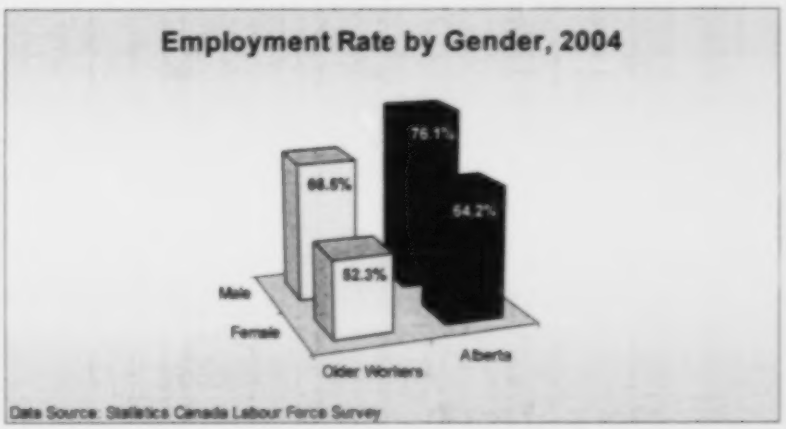


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## 7. Alberta Older Workers Employment

**Alberta male older workers were more likely to work full-time than their female counterparts**

Eighty two percent of all those employed in Alberta were employed full-time. Full-time employment is those persons who usually work 30 hours or more per week at their main or only job, whereas part-time employment consists of all other persons who usually work less than 30 hours per week.[10] In 2004, older workers had a higher rate of full-time employment than Alberta, 84% and 82% respectively. Ninety-three percent of male older workers work full-time, whereas 73% of female older workers had a full-time status. This information can be viewed in Table 7.

**Table 7**

**Employment by Gender, 2004**

| | Older Workers | | Alberta | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Employed | % of total | Employed | % of total |
| **Both Genders** | 630,000 | 100% | 1,757,900 | 100% |
| **Full-Time** | 527,500 | 84% | 1,440,100 | 82% |
| **Part-Time** | 102,500 | 16% | 317,800 | 18% |
| **Male** | 347,000 | 100% | 960,200 | 100% |
| **Full-Time** | 321,300 | 93% | 866,700 | 90% |
| **Part-Time** | 25,700 | 7% | 93,500 | 10% |
| **Female** | 283,000 | 100% | 797,700 | 100% |
| **Full-Time** | 206,200 | 73% | 573,400 | 72% |
| **Part-Time** | 76,800 | 27% | 224,300 | 28% |

Data Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

*Figures are subject to Statistic Canada rounding guidelines

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[10] Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE

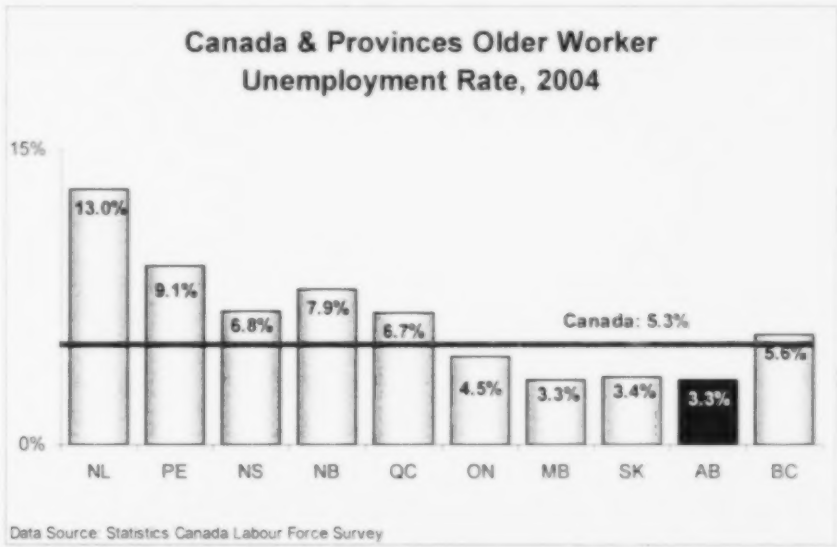
## 8. Alberta Older Workers Unemployment

**Alberta's older workers had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada**

The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.[11] In 2004, Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 4.6%.

Older workers in Alberta had an unemployment rate of 3.3%. As illustrated in Chart 14, this was the lowest in the country, at the same rate as Manitoba, and was 2.0 percentage points lower than the national average.

**Chart 14**




**Calgary was in the top three of major Canadian cities for older worker unemployment rates**

In 2004, the older worker unemployment rate in Calgary was 3.4%. Among major Canadian cities for older worker unemployment rates, this represented the third lowest rate, behind Victoria (3.1%) and Oshawa (3.1%). Edmonton placed in the top ten with an unemployment rate of 3.7%.

**Alberta older workers unemployment rate was lower than the provincial rate**

Alberta has had a decreasing unemployment rate over the past decade. Alberta older workers unemployment rate was lower than the provincial rate. In 2004, older workers had an unemployment rate 1.3 percentage points lower than the provincial rate. Figure 5 provides information on Alberta and Alberta's older workers unemployment rates.

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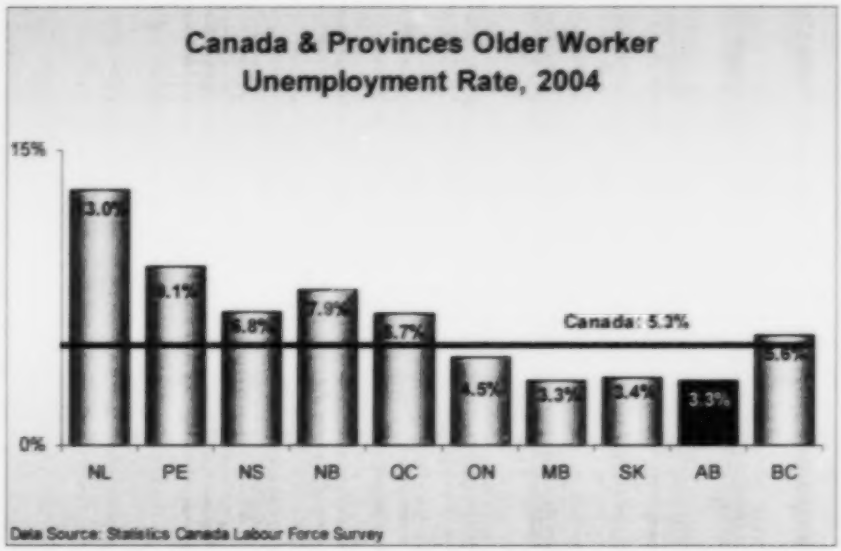


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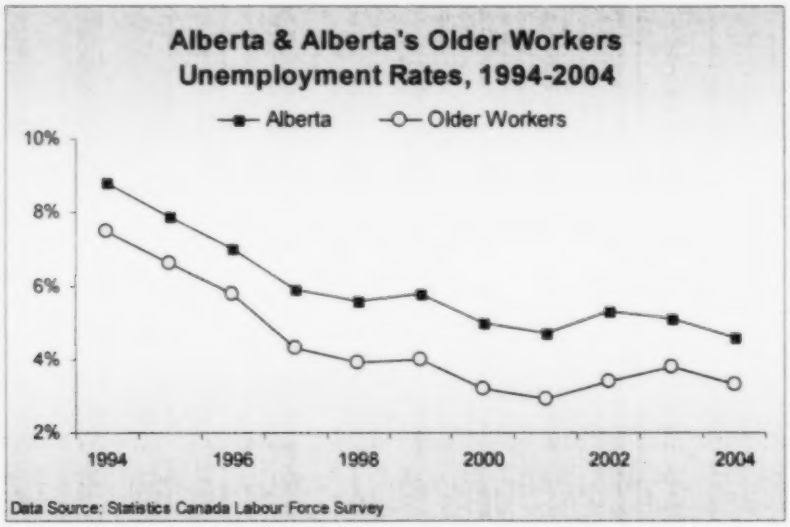
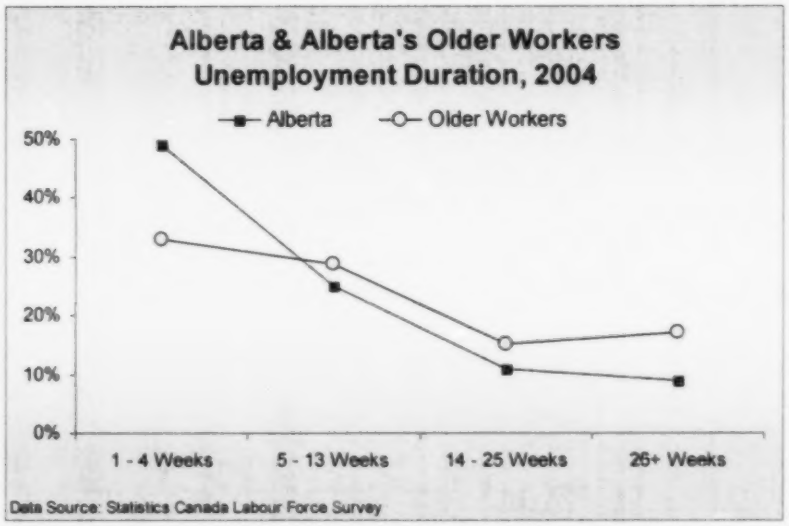



**Older workers experienced longer lengths of unemployment than overall Albertans**

Figure 6 displays the length of unemployment for Alberta and Alberta's older workers. In 2004, almost half (49.0%) of those unemployed Albertans were unemployed for 1-4 weeks, whereas nearly one third (33.0%) of older workers were unemployed for that time. Older workers experienced longer lengths of unemployment than the rest of the Alberta population.

**Figure 6**



## 8. Alberta Older Workers Unemployment

**Over the last decade, the average length of unemployment for older workers has decreased**

Between 1994 and 2004, there has been a decrease in unemployment duration for Alberta's older workers. From 1994 to 2004, the length of 1-4 weeks unemployment for older workers increased by 12.4 percentage points, while the rate for 26 weeks or more decreased by 17.5 percentage points. Below is Figure 7 displaying further information for the unemployment duration of older workers in Alberta.

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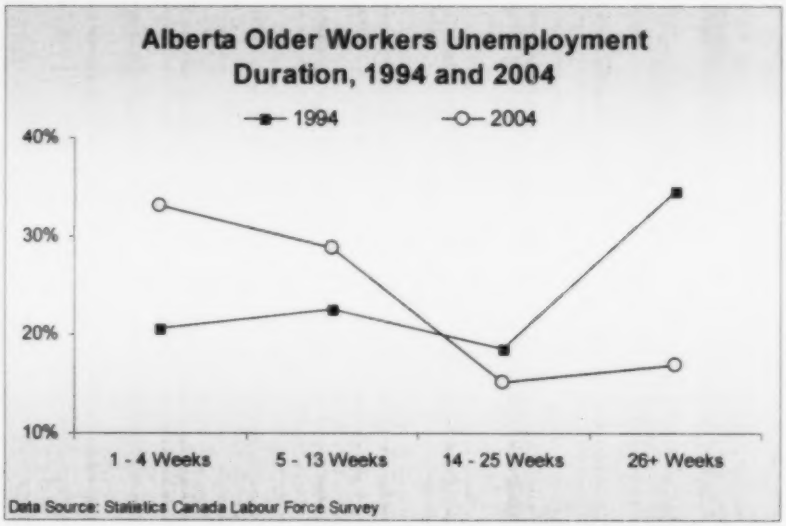


**The unemployment rate among older workers was slightly higher for women**

Chart 15 displays the unemployment rate by gender in Alberta. The older worker unemployment rate was lower than the provincial rate and maintained a similar unemployment rate despite gender in 2004. Older women experienced a slightly higher unemployment rate than older men.

## 8. Alberta Older Workers Unemployment

**Chart 15**

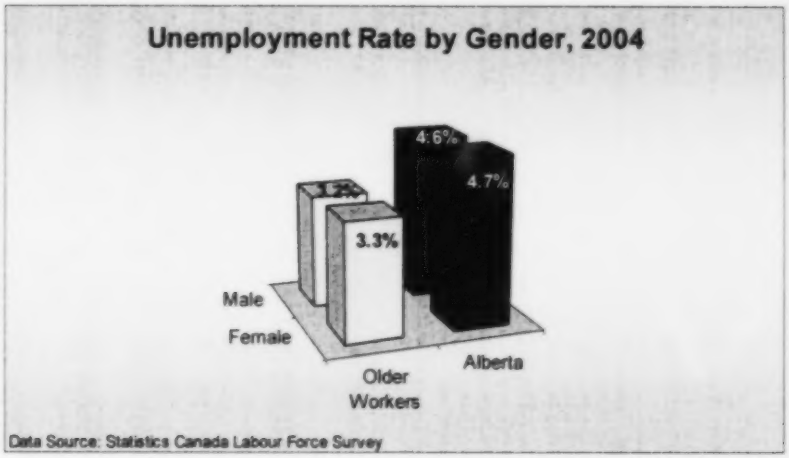


Table 8 gives additional detail about unemployment by gender for 2004. Alberta males accounted for 54% of all unemployment in Alberta. The trend was similar for older workers where males accounted for 53% of unemployed older workers.

**Table 8**

**Unemployment by Gender, 2004**

| | Older Workers | | Alberta | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unemployed | % of total | Unemployed | % of total |
| **Both Genders** | 21,200 | 100% | 85,500 | 100% |
| **Male** | 11,300 | 53% | 46,000 | 54% |
| **Female** | 9,800 | 46% | 39,400 | 46% |

Data Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

*Figures are subject to Statistics Canada rounding guidelines

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## 8. Alberta Older Workers Unemployment

**Over the last decade, the average length of unemployment for older workers has decreased**

Between 1994 and 2004, there has been a decrease in unemployment duration for Alberta's older workers. From 1994 to 2004, the length of 1-4 weeks unemployment for older workers increased by 12.4 percentage points, while the rate for 26 weeks or more decreased by 17.5 percentage points. Below is Figure 7 displaying further information for the unemployment duration of older workers in Alberta.

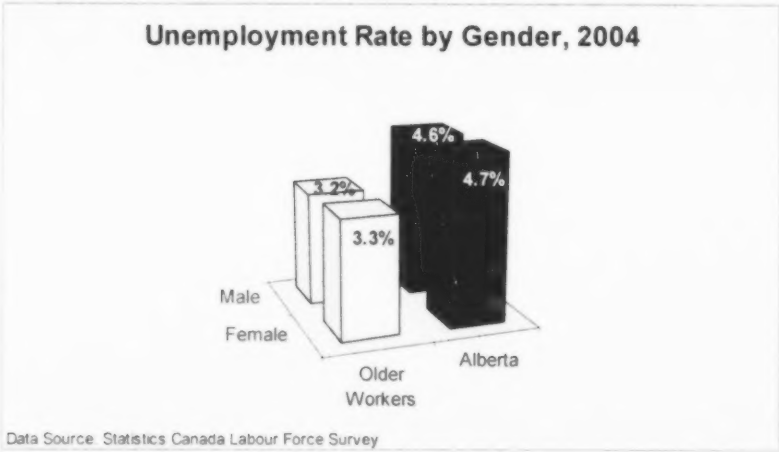
**Figure 7**

**The unemployment rate among older workers was slightly higher for women**

Chart 15 displays the unemployment rate by gender in Alberta. The older worker unemployment rate was lower than the provincial rate and maintained a similar unemployment rate despite gender in 2004. Older women experienced a slightly higher unemployment rate than older men.

# 8. Alberta Older Workers Unemployment

**Chart 15**

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